

KIDDERMINSTER
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

AND


SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1914.

Kidderminster :

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Kidderminster Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1914.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour, in the absence of Dr. B. Addenbrooke, now serving abroad in the capacity of Surgeon-Major with the Imperial Forces, of submitting to you the Report of your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1914, made in accordance with the Local Government Board's Order of December, 1910, which specifies the information to be contained in the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

There has been no marked changes in the general character and features of your district since the report of a year ago. The occupations of the inhabitants are much the same, but there has been a general improvement in the conditions pertaining to public health.

It is very gratifying to be able to record unparalleled improvement in the sanitary condition of the district, with a consequent decline in the number of cases of infectious diseases, particularly in respect of Scarlet Fever, of which only three cases have been notified during the year. This result abundantly justifies the policy adopted by Dr. Addenbrooke from the time of his appointment, of restricting as far as possible all such cases to home treatment, instead of ordering removal to the Isolation Hospital.

Topography.

During the year the number of births registered was 145, which is equal to an annual birth rate of 20·13 per 1,000 of the population. Of these 145 births, 4 were illegitimate children, which is 2·75 per cent. of the total births.

Births.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 107, giving a death rate of 14·86 for the whole district, compared with 10·83 in the previous year, and 1·86 more than the average for 1909-1912.

In calculating the death rate, the deaths of non-residents occurring in public institutions, and the deaths of persons belonging to the district, are added.

Seven deaths of non-residents occurred in the district; 21 deaths of persons belonging to the district, as far as could be ascertained, occurred in public institutions beyond the district.

Infantile
Mortality.

The number of deaths among children under one year of age amounted to 12, giving a mortality of 82·75, which is 10·47 higher than that recorded in the preceding year, and 4·58 less than the average for four years 1909-1912. The infantile mortality rate is based on the number of deaths of infants under one year of age to each 1,000 births registered during the same year. Although the infantile mortality has shown a gradual decline during the last ten years, yet the birth rate shows a decline which is equally important and less amenable to administrative influence.

Infectious
Diseases

Scarlet Fever.

This scourge has been well nigh stamped out of the district, only three cases, each of a mild type, having been notified during the year, compared with 29 for the year 1913. The average number of cases per year for the four years ending 1912 (immediately prior to Dr. Addenbrooke's appointment) was 50. Under the system of treatment then in vogue, each case involved an expenditure of not less than £12. The policy adopted by your Medical Officer of Health has consequently secured the double advantage of almost ridding the district of this malady, and of considerably relieving the financial burdens of the Council.

Phthisis.

Nineteen cases have been notified during the year, compared with 20 in 1913, 10 of which were reported by the County Council School Medical Inspectors. Dr. Keane, the County Tuberculosis Officer, paid several visits to these cases, in the capacity of your Assistant Medical Officer of Health, in company with your Sanitary Inspector, and investigated the conditions of life and habitation. These visits resulted in suggestions to the parties concerned which, being acted upon, allayed the spread of the disease and secured desired improvement.

No cases have been reported during the year.

Enteric Fever.

Three deaths were due to this disease, as against nine in the preceding year.

Cancer.

There were two deaths from measles in 1914, as compared with one in the previous year. In my opinion the most important preventive feature of a Measles epidemic is its relationship to school attendance. In April, May, August, and September, many children attending Stone, Hoobrook, and Wribbenhall C.E. and Council Schools were discovered suffering from the disease. It was therefore considered advisable, in order to prevent the spread of the infection, to close the Infants' Department of the said Schools. By the end of September the disease had practically died out in the district.

Measles.

Only one case was notified, which occurred at Shenstone.

Ophthalmia
Neonatorum.

Three cases from Wribbenhall, two from Chaddesley Corbett, one from Wolverley, and one from Stone were notified, Total, 7.

Erysipelas.

One case of Puerperal Fever occurred during the year, and a registered midwife was in attendance, as also was a medical man. Special disinfection was carried out, and the midwife was instructed not to attend any further cases for two weeks in order to prevent the spread of infection.

Puerperal
Fever

These are diseases of the lungs other than Phthisis, and accounted for a large number of deaths during the year. Bronchitis, 15; Pneumonia, 10; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 4; diseases ill-defined or unknown, 14; total, 43.

Respiratory
Diseases.

The prevalence of this disease is probably the most serious feature in this report, as during the year 27 cases affecting 10 families were reported. The disease was fortunately of a mild type, as only two deaths took place. There has been no such outbreak since 1909. In all cases full enquiries were made at the schools, and swabs were taken from all suspicious cases or contacts. The chief causes of infection are mild typical cases and also so-called "carrier" cases: that is persons with

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria
(continued).

healthy throats which carry the microbes from the patient to others with whom they may come in contact. This is done without the intermediary person contracting the disease himself. On many occasions the patient's illness also may not be recognised, which complicates matters when the cause of an outbreak is being investigated.

Water.

Matters pertaining to the water supply of the district have occupied a prominent position in the deliberations of your Council since your Medical Officer's last report, resulting in arrangements being made for a good, wholesome, and sufficient supply to the parishes of Wribbenhall and Churchill. The Local Government Board, having ordered an enquiry respecting the Wribbenhall supply, the same was held on September 23rd, when the information supplied by your Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector (as to the condition of the existing supply) was investigated. Consequent upon the enquiry, the application for a loan of £1,500 to meet the necessary expenditure was sanctioned, and the work is now in hand. In connection with an influentially-signed requisition from the parishioners of Churchill for a water supply, your Sanitary Inspector was directed to obtain 12 samples of water from wells in the parish. On being submitted to analysis, seven were certified to be fit and five unfit. This result justified your Council in pressing forward a scheme to meet the desire of the parish for an approved supply. No doubt the requirements of other parishes will receive the consideration of your Council whenever any question of urgency arises.

Housing
and Town
Planning Act.

In company with your Sanitary Inspector I have paid periodic visits to different parishes in the Union, and have inspected 413 houses. Details of these will be found in your Sanitary Inspector's report. I will therefore only allude to our visits at Wribbenhall, where every house was visited, and as a result of our reports various improvements have been effected, which undoubtedly have been conducive to the freedom of the parish from any outbreak of infectious disease.

Three new houses have been erected under the supervision of your Surveyor; 19 have been condemned, 16 closed, and five houses demolished.

The energetic administration by your Council of the Housing and Town Planning Act, has obviated any recurrence of serious overcrowding. Sixteen houses were reported by your Sanitary Inspector, all of which were dealt with and the nuisance abated.

Overcrowding.

Four schools in the district have had to be closed owing to the prevalence of infectious disease, namely :—

Schools.

Stone	..	...	...April 22...	Measles	..	4 weeks
Hoobrook	...	...	...May 7...	„	...	2 „
Wribbenhall Council School	...	...	...Aug. 11...	„	...	3 „
Stone	...	...	...Sept. 14...	„	...	4 „
Wribbenhall C.E. (Infants)	...	...	...Sept. 19...	„	...	2 „
Chaddesley Corbett			...Nov. 6...	Diphtheria	...	2 „

These schools were all visited and thoroughly disinfected by your Sanitary Inspector during the time of closure. Sanitary improvements were effected at Wribbenhall C.E. Schools. The most serious feature of the school closures was the Diphtheric outbreak at Chaddesley Corbett. I carefully examined the throat of every child attending school, and previous to closure took a number of swabs which were submitted to the County Analyst for bacteriological examination. These were certified to be negative. Previous to the re-opening of the school, special arrangements were made whereby the children were assembled together and further swabs taken from the throats of suspects. These were also submitted to the County Analyst for bacteriological examination, and produced the same certified results.

No cases of pollution occurred during the year requiring special attention. Inspections of the various streams in the district were periodically made, more especially during the Summer months.

River
Pollution.

The district has been free from any case of Anthrax since 1910.

Diseases of
Animals Acts.

The slaughter-houses have been visited regularly by your Sanitary Inspector, and details will be found in his report. Your Sanitary Inspector has been vigilant in his supervision of the Meat and other Food supplies, and no occasion has been found to take proceedings.

Slaughterhouse

Keeping of
Animals.

As a result of House-to-House inspection in Wribbenhall and Cookley, insanitary conditions were found to exist in respect to piggeries and fowl-pens. These nuisances were, on the representation of your Sanitary Inspector, abated, by the demolition of the structures so used. New Piggeries have been constructed in several Parishes in compliance with the suggestions of your Inspector, and the general conditions of such places throughout the district is entirely satisfactory.

Scavenging

The only Parish in which this operates is Wribbenhall, where it is very efficiently carried out. A large number of privy-middens have been altered to pan-closets, and 173 dust bins have been provided and are emptied weekly by your Council's Scavenger.

Dairies,
Cowsheds and
Milkshops.

There is nothing calling for special observation in respect to my visits to farms, dairies and milkshops in the district, except a case reported by your Sanitary Inspector concerning a building used as a Cowshed at the Vicarage, Rushoch, which was totally unsuited for such a purpose. The owner being officially informed by your Clerk of this contravention of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, the use of the buildings for this purpose was discontinued.

The Cowshed at Spring Grove Farm, Wribbenhall, has been re-constructed at considerable cost, and is now equal to any such building in the County.

The general condition of such building throughout the district is eminently satisfactory, smaller matters of lighting, ventilation, and drainage having been attended to under instructions from your Sanitary Inspector.

There has been no cause for complaint against the Milk supply, which has been found to be sufficient in quantity and good in quality.

Drainage

Improvements are gradually being effected in the drainage systems of the district, notably at Churchill House; 1-5, Whispering Street, Wribbenhall; The Vicarage, Wribbenhall; Ismere House; Caunsall House; Bull's Head, Cookley; Caunsall Cottage, Cookley; 1-4, Spencer Avenue, Wribbenhall; 1-2, Watkin's Cottages, Wribbenhall; Bank Cottage, Grove Cottage, Holly Cottage, 1-2 Rock Houses, Wribbenhall, in all of which complete new systems of drainage have been laid in accordance with modern requirements.

These Acts are administered by the County Medical Officer, to whom all notifications are sent. There are no health visitors in the district.

Midwives' Act
1902 and
Notification of
Births Act.
1907.

We have no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Common
Lodging
Houses
and Houses
let in Lodgings

There have been four additions to the register during the year, making a total of 122. Most of the Factories and Workshops have been visited by me, and their sanitary arrangements were found satisfactory.

Factories and
Workshops

We have no outworkers in the district.

The general condition of these places may be said to be very good and the statutory provisions as to the cleansing were carried out. One hundred and twenty-five visits of inspection were made during the year.

Bakehouses

There are no underground bakehouses in the district.

Your Medical Officer of Health having been called up immediately on mobilisation, your Council did me the honour of appointing me Deputy Medical Officer of Health. I have endeavoured to discharge the duties with the co-operation and ripe experience of your Sanitary Inspector, in such manner as to meet with your Council's approbation.

I have particularly kept under observation the houses in which the Soldiers have been billeted in Wribbenhall, and have found no cause for complaint.

I cordially appreciate the courtesy and consideration extended to me by your Council under these special circumstances, and have the honour to remain,

Yours obediently,

SMEETON JOHNSON,

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

Monthly Returns under the Infectious Disease (Notification)
Act, 1889.

MONTH	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Contd. Fever	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Typhus Fever	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Fever	Phthisis	Ophth. Neon.	TOTALS
January	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
February	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	4
March	1	4	...	...	1	3	...	9
April	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	4
May	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3
June	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
July	1	...	1
August	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	4
September	2	...	...	...	2	...	4
October	2	...	...	...	3	..	5
November	...	1	...	2	10	...	...	..	2	...	15
December	5	...	...	...	...	1	6
Totals	...	3	...	7	27	...	...	1	19	1	58

TABLE 1.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett,		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District. 8	of Residents not registered in the District. 9	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages,	
			Number	Rate,					Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births registered.	Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			10	11	12	13
1909	10100	213	213	23·96	135	13·06	4	19	23	108·9	150	14·8
1910	10100	202	202	21·1	108	10·7	1	21	19	94·05	128	12·57
1911	10500	202	202	20·	119	11·4	5	16	18	89·1	130	12·4
1912	10500	193	192	19·2	124	11·8	8	16	11	57·29	132	12·3
1913	7200	162	166	23·05	66	9·16	—	12	12	72·28	78	10·83
1914	7200	144	145	20·13	93	12·91	7	21	12	82·75	107	14·86

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 31,565.

Total population at all ages at Census of 1911, 10,495; Number of inhabited houses, 2,488; Average number of persons per house, 4·21.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—Kidderminster Borough Infectious Hospital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Kidderminster Union Workhouse, Kidderminster Infirmary and Children's Hospital.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.										Total Cases Removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Arley	Chad'sley Corbett.	Churchill.	Dowles	Kidderminster Foreign.	Ribbesford	Stone	Wolverley.	Cookley	Wribbenhall.		
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65												65 and up'wds
		1	2	3	4	5	6												7	8	9	10
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup ..	27	..	7	14	4	2	..	..	13	2	..	3	..	..	1	5	2	3	..
Erysipelas ..	7	..	..	..	..	2	3	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	3	1	..
Scarlet Fever ..	3	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	19	..	2	8	3	3	3	..	6	..	2	1	2	..	..	2	3	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	1	1	..	..	..	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	58	1	10	23	8	8	6	2	21	2	2	4	2	3	3	8	9	..	..

H.—Kidderminster Borough Infectious Hospital, Stourport Road, Kidderminster. Total available beds 80 (60 under ordinary circumstances). Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated 2.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH		NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS," WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.										Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65	65 and upwards.		
All causes {	Certified	107	12	5	1	4	3	11	17	53	..	
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup..	..	4	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..	4	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Cancer, Malignant disease	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	12	..
Bronchitis	..	15	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	11	..
Pneumonia (all forms)..	..	10	2	1	..	..	..	..	4	3	..
Other diseases respiratory organs	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..
Suicides	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	...	16	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	12	..
Diseases ill-defined or unknown..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	11	..

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1914.
 Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes. { Certified 12. Uncertified 0.	3 ..	1 ..	.. ..	.. ..	4 ..	4 ..	1 ..	2 ..	1 ..	12 ..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
Injury at Birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laryngitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malformations ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth ...	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	3
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Other Causes ..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
TOTAL ..	3	1	..	..	4	4	1	2	1	12

Nett Births in the year—legitimate 141; illegitimate, 4.
 Nett Deaths in the year of—legitimate infants, 10; illegitimate infants, 0.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORK- PLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1-INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	INSPECTIONS.	WRITTEN NOTICES.	PROSECUTIONS.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	48	3	None
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	126	19	"
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	69	12	"
TOTAL	243	34	None

2-DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS.
	FOUND	REMEDIED	REFERRED TO H.M. INSPECTOR.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	25	25	..	..
Want of Ventilation	4	4	..	..
Overcrowding	1	1	..	..
Want of Drainage of Floors	2	2	..	..
Other Nuisances	27	27	..	..
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient .. .. .	..	..	..
	unsuitable or defective	3	3	..
	not separate for sexes .. .. .	..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses .. .. .	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	62	62	None	None

3-HOME WORK.

No cases of homeworkers have come under notice, and no list of outworkers has been sent in from any employers in the district.

4-REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year: Bakers, 14; Blacksmiths, 16; Boot and Shoe Makers, 12; Boat Builders, 1; Builders, 6; Cabinet Makers, 3; Carpenters, 9; Coal Merchants, 4; Coffin Makers, 2; Confectioners, 1; Cycle Makers, 2; Dressmakers, 16; Jewellers, 2; Joiners, 3; Laundries, 6; Milliners, 5; Painters, 3; Plumbers. 4; Photographers, 2; Saddlers, 1; Stone Masons, 3; Tailors and Drapers, 3; Wheelwrights, 4—*Total, 122.*

5-OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act, 0; Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act—Notified by H.M. Inspector 0, Reports (of action taken) sent to H. M. Inspector 0.

No underground bakehouses.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

KIDDERMINSTER,

JANUARY, 1915.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Sixth Annual Report of the Sanitary and other work carried out in my department during the year ending December 31st, 1914.

I desire to thank you for the courtesy which has been shown to me, and for the attention you have paid to my requirements during the year.

I also beg to acknowledge the courtesy and kindness received from my fellow officials.

NUISANCES.

The total number of nuisances or infringements under the various Acts found and reported upon during the year amounted to 3,184, of which 3008 have been remedied, leaving 176 remaining on the books at the end of the year.

The 89 nuisances mentioned in the last annual report as remaining on the books at the end of 1913 were abated in the early part of the year.

NOTICES FOR ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

The number of preliminary notices served on owners or occupiers to abate nuisances was 139. As in previous instances of non-compliance with these "preliminary notices" (necessitating a report to your Council), and the service of statutory notices were comparatively few, only 4 of the latter notices having been served during the year.

COMPLAINTS.

The complaints register shows that 26 complaints of various matters were received during the year, as compared with 33 in 1913. All these were investigated, and action taken where required. Of these 26 complaints, 8 were made verbally at this office, 12 were written and properly authenticated, and 6 were anonymous contributions.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION.

(HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909).

In compliance with the Orders of the Local Government Board, systematic house-to-house inspection has been made of the following districts during the year :—Wribbenhall, Cookley, Arley, Stone, and Drayton. In this way 413 houses were thoroughly examined, and a large number of defects discovered. The Medical Officer of Health accompanied me in the district inspection of Wribbenhall, when no less than 345 houses (being every house in the Parish) were inspected.

There has been no change in the policy in dealing with houses unfit for human habitation. The Housing and Town Planning Act has again been put into useful operation, whereby houses after being represented to the Council as unfit for human habitation, must either be put in proper repair and rendered fit for habitation, or a Closing Order is obtained and the tenant is served with a notice to vacate the house within a specified time.

Sixty-three houses have been dealt with under the Act. Of these 18 have been rendered habitable, though in six cases this has been accomplished by merging two houses into one, so that where there were formerly twelve houses there are now six.

There have been 4 new houses erected during the year, in addition to the 6 that were in course of erection at the end of 1913, 11 houses condemned, 10 closed, and 3 demolished, while the necessary Orders have been served for the demolition of 6 more.

The following houses were reported during the year :—

HOUSES AND LOCALITIES.	ACTION TAKE AND RESULT.
Hollies Farm Cottage, Trimpley	House has been put into a thorough state of repair
Foxholes Cottage, Franche	House put in thorough repair.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Whispering Street, Wribbenhall	The work of converting these eight houses into four through houses is now in progress.
1, 2, Bailes Corner, Wribbenhall	The two old cottages at this corner were pulled down, and two new houses, possessing every modern convenience, have been erected in their place.
Black and White House, Severn Side, Wribbenhall 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Severn Side, Wribbenhall	This house has been added to the adjoining building, after being repaired. Houses have been rendered fit and put into a thorough state of repair. Three new w.c.'s and one new wash-house provided, new drains laid, yards paved, etc.
1, 2, 3, Pewter's Alley, Wribbenhall	These three cottages, two of which had only one bedroom and one living room each, have been converted into two good houses. One new w.c. and a new wash-house has been erected, new drains laid, lighting and ventilation of Bed and living rooms improved, etc.
Bungalow, Glebe Farm, Stourport Road, Foley Park	Closing Order served. Permanently closed.
1, 2, Canal Side Cottages, Cookley	Closing Orders served.
Caunsall Farm Cottage, Cookley	House thoroughly repaired and made fit.
1-6, Chapel Row, Cookley	Closing and Demolition Orders served.
Thatched Cottage, Rushock	Closing Order served. House to be permanently closed.
1, 2, 3, Stanklin, Shenstone	Demolished by mutual agreement with owner.
Aston Cottage, Hackman's Gate, Chaddesley Corbett	Old cottage pulled down and a new modern villa erected.
Bolton's Cottage, Wolverley	House made fit.
1, 2, 3, 4, Grove Terrace, Wribbenhall	Houses put into a thorough state repair.
Bank Cottage, Wribbenhall	House thoroughly repaired.
Springhill Cottage, Wribbenhall	House made fit.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889, AND INFECTIOUS
DISEASE (PREVENTION) ACT, 1890.

Fifty-eight cases of Infectious Disease were reported to the Medical Officer of Health during the year, compared with 53 for the year 1913.

These consisted of 3 cases of Scarlet Fever (compared with 29 for 1913), 27 Diphtheria, 7 Erysipelas, 1 Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1 Puerperal Fever, and 19 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Of the 19 cases of Tuberculosis or Phthisis notified, 10 were reported by the School Medical Officers as a result of their examination of children attending the schools in the district. There were no private cases of Phthisis reported.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified was only 3, and it is satisfactory to note that this is the lowest number on record. There were no removals to hospital, and no deaths from this disease.

As usual, every house in which a case of infectious disease occurred the premises were examined and printed instructions left as to the precautions to be taken in order to check the spread of infection. Frequent visits were paid in order to ensure that the necessary precautions were being carried out.

Disinfectants were supplied in every case.

No children from infected houses were permitted to attend school, and all cases were reported to the Headmasters forthwith. After disinfection had been carried out, the school authorities were again notified informing them when the children could resume attendance at school.

The same procedure has been carried out as in former years in disinfecting the premises and clothing where a death from Phthisis occurred.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

The following schools were closed and disinfected on account of infectious disease existing among the scholars:—

School.	Disease.	Closed.		Disinfected.
		From.	To.	
Stone C.E. ...	Measles.	April 22nd	May 14th	May 5th
Hoobrook C.E. ...	„	May 7th	May 21st	May 12th
Wribbenhall Council Schools ...	„	August 11th	August 29th	August 26th
Stone C.E. ...	„	Sept. 14th	Oct. 10th	Oct. 6th
Wribbenhall C. E. (Infants' Dept.)	„	Sept. 19th	Oct. 3rd	Sept. 29th
Chaddesley Corbett (Endowed) ...	Diphtheria.	Nov. 6th	Nov. 23rd	Nov. 18th

The schools mentioned were visited on several occasions before closure, and the effect of the outbreak on the attendance noted on each visit.

No less than 101 visits were made to the schools during the year. Improvements in the sanitary arrangements of several of the schools have been carried out, more especially at the Wribbenhall National Schools, where a new drainage system has been provided, and the outbuildings used by the Infants and Mixed Departments brought up-to-date.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885.

There were at the end of the year 139 Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops on the Register, and during the year 197 visits of Inspection were made, with the result that 35 notices were served under the above Order.

Year by year a gradual improvement is taking place in the condition of the Cowsheds, though there is still considerable difficulty in educating small owners of one and two cows as to the necessity of drainage, light and ventilation in connection with their cowsheds.

Many minor defects of cowsheds and dairies, etc., have been remedied, including the repair of defective drainage, the provision of water troughs, construction of manure pits, re-laying of floors, and increased air-space and lighting; whilst in one case—Spring Grove Farm, Wribbenhall—the cowshed has been re-modelled, at a total cost of £250, on lines suggested by this department.

The statutory obligation of whitewashing in the months of May and October was attended to in all cases.

In April I reported concerning the use as a cowshed, which in the opinion of your Medical Officer of Health was quite unsuited for the purpose. Your Clerk was instructed to communicate with the owner, and a reply was received giving an undertaking to discontinue the use of the building.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1878—1894.

No cases of Anthrax or any disease under the above Acts have occurred during the year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Ninety-eight visits were paid to the Slaughter-houses in the district. There were found 23 slight contraventions, which were put right on being pointed out.

The visits are usually made on days that the places are used, and inspection of the recently killed carcasses and offal is carried out, but no meat was discovered that was unfit for human food. The general quality of meat supplied in your district is very good.

There is only one Offensive Trade carried on in the district, viz., that of a Knacker. The knacker's yard is in an isolated position away from houses, and the business is conducted without offence.

The building has been regularly visited during the year.

UN SOUND FOOD.

Close attention has been given to this branch of the work. During the year 111 visits of inspection were made to the various butcher's, fishmonger's, fruiterer's, etc., shops, but in no case has it been found necessary to take proceedings.

BAKEHOUSES.

One-hundred-and-twenty-five visits of inspection were made during the year. The general condition may be said to be very good, and the statutory provisions as to cleansing, etc., were carried out.

No underground bakehouses exist in the district.

OVERCROWDING.

Reports as to the cubic contents and number of inmates of 16 houses, which appeared to be overcrowded, were submitted to the Medical Officer of Health during the year, and in 10 cases written notices were served to reduce the number of inmates. The other 6 cases were abated upon verbal notice being given to the occupiers.

Most of the cases were discovered during the course of house-to-house inspection.

WATER SUPPLY.

The main supply of water was ample in quantity and good in quality. The number of dwelling houses which continue to obtain their water supply from surface wells has been diminishing during the past few years. Where for any reason it appears likely that the private supply may not be satisfactory, a sample of the water is taken and submitted for analysis.

During the past year 30 samples were taken from wells in the Wolverley, Churchill and Chaddesley parishes, and of these 17 were reported unfit for drinking purposes. There were 10 polluted (surface) wells closed, 11 new wells sunk, and 39 cleansed and repaired, in addition to 10 houses that were supplied from water-works.

No outbreak of infectious disease has been traced to water in the district.

The question of Wribbenhall water supply was gone into thoroughly this year, and on September 23rd the Local Government Board held an Inquiry on the subject matter of an application for sanction to borrow £1,500 for purposes of water supply for the parish. This loan has been sanctioned, and the work will soon be in hand.

The water supply of the Churchill Parish has also been under consideration during the year. On April 21st you gave instructions for 12 samples of well water at Churchill to be sent to the County Analyst, who reported that 7 were fit and 5 unfit for drinking purposes.

It is pleasing to know that a suitable source of supply will soon be acquired, for the parish is to be served with water from the mains of the Stourbridge and District Water Board, the water pipes for which are now being laid through the district.

HOUSE SCAVENGING.

There were very few complaints received during the year as to alleged nuisances arising from privy-middens, etc. Action was taken in every case, as the owners were either served a preliminary notice or recommended to substitute pan closets, which work was immediately done. Many of these desirable improvements are now secured by personal or written recommendation to the owners, followed in most cases by interviews and appointments on the properties rather than by any formal procedure for the abatement of nuisances, and I must acknowledge the readiness with which the many owners have carried out my recommendations to replace these old-fashioned conveniences with pan closets, or have undertaken to do so within a specified time.

Fifty-six privy-middens have been altered to pan closets, and 61 were repaired and put in a sanitary condition. The number of new sanitary dustbins provided was 173.

The weekly removal of refuse has been continued in the Parish of Wribbenhall, and the work has been carried out in a most satisfactory manner.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

There have been 48 visits paid to the factories in the district, special regard being paid to the question of closet accommodation.

The work done in connection with the factories and workshops is better set out in tabular form. The official tables are used for this purpose, and the particulars are compiled by the Medical Officer of Health.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

There were 122 Workshops and Workplaces on the register as compared with 118 last year. Apart from the Bakehouses, 178 visits of inspection were made, and 31 notices were served to abate nuisances; 25 of the notices were for want of cleanliness, 1 for overcrowding, other nuisances 5.

The following is a list of the Workshops now in the district :—

Bakers	...	14	Joiners	...	3
Blacksmiths	...	16	Laundries	...	6
Boot and Shoe Makers		12	Milliners	...	5
Boat Builders	...	1	Painters	...	3
Builders	...	6	Plumbers	...	4
Cabinet Makers	...	3	Photographers	...	2
Carpenters	...	9	Saddlers	...	1
Coal Merchants	...	4	Stonemasons	...	3
Coffin Makers	...	2	Tailors and Drapers	...	3
Confectioners	...	1	Wheelwrights	...	4
Cycle Makers	...	2			—
Dressmakers	...	16	Total	...	122
Jewellers	...	2			—

No cases of home-workers have come under my notice, and no list has been sent in of out-workers from any employers in the district.

CANAL BOATS.

Boats inspected	...	...	212
Boats contravening the Acts or Regulations	...	...	19
Persons for which the Cabins were registered	...	...	611
Persons occupying the Cabins	...	...	502
Men on the Boats	...	...	464
Women on the Boats	...	...	24
Children on the Boats (between the ages of 5 and 12)			8
Children on the Boats (under 5 years of age)	...	...	6
<i>Details of Contraventions :</i>			
Boats not carrying Certificate of Registration	...	...	1
Boats not properly marked	...	...	1
Boats overcrowded	...	...	1
Dirty Cabins	...	...	7
Painting requiring renewal	...	...	3
Want of proper vessels for drinking water	...	...	6
Total	...	...	19

All the contraventions were complied with at the end of the year.

No case of Infectious Disease has been met with upon any of the Boats, nor has any such case been notified as occurring amongst the occupants.

The cabins of the boats plying in the district were found to be in a very satisfactory condition.

H.M. Inspector of Canal Boats (O. J. Llewellyn, Esq.) paid his annual visit on July 28th, 1914, and examined the registers submitted for his inspection.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

There were no new licenses granted during the year under the above Act. There are 14 persons in the district licensed to sell or store petroleum, petrol (or motor spirit), benzoline, carbide of calcium, etc. Periodical visits have been paid to the different premises, but no infringements of the Acts or Regulations were discovered, and your requirements and those of the Petroleum Acts have been duly carried out.

Infectious Disease :

Number of cases enquired into	...	...	58
„ visits made thereto	...	...	154
„ patients removed to Hospital	...	...	—
„ houses disinfected	...	...	96
„ visits made to schools	...	...	101
„ articles of clothing disinfected	...	...	368
„ articles destroyed	...	...	121

Houses :

Number inspected (house-to-house)	...	...	413
„ „ on complaint	...	...	26
„ cleansed and limewashed	...	...	158
„ repaired	...	...	99
„ defective yards paved	...	...	89
„ houses closed	...	...	10

Sinks :

Number of quarry sinks abolished	...	...	64
„ glazed earthenware sinks provided	97

Courts and Terraces :

Number of visits made thereto	173
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Works in Progress :

Number of visits made thereto	297
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Overcrowding :

Number of cases abated	19
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House Drains :

Tested with smoke, or chemicals, or both	...	139
Found defective	...	64
Laid or re-laid	...	101
Cleansed, trapped or ventilated	...	144
Defective wastes rectified	...	30
Insanitary lavatories, urinals, etc., rectified	...	54
Dumbwells constructed	...	39
Dumbwells rectified	...	46

Water Closets :

Additional provided	...	6
Repaired, ventilated, etc.	...	55
Cleansed and limewashed	...	52
Supplied with flushing apparatus	...	13

Privies and Ashpits :

Additional provided	...	13
Repaired, ventilated, etc.	...	61
Cleansed and limewashed	...	122
Re-constructed	...	21
Privy pans provided	...	41
Converted to water closets	...	11
Converted to pail closets	...	56

Dustbins (Portable) :

New provided	...	173
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Water Supply :

Samples taken	...	30
Wells closed as polluted	...	10
New wells sunk	...	11
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	39
Houses supplied from waterworks	...	12

Slaughter-houses :

Inspections made	...	98
Contraventions remedied	...	33

Bakehouses :

Inspections made	...	125
Contraventions remedied	...	49

Workshops :

On register	...	122
Registered	...	4
Inspections made	...	178
Contraventions remedied	...	62
Insanitary conditions dealt with as nuisances	...	19

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops :

Registered	...	6
Inspections made	...	197
Contraventions remedied	...	61

Canal Boats :

Inspections made	...	46
Boats inspected	...	212
Contraventions remedied	...	19

Nuisances from keeping of Animals :

Number abated	...	52
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Accumulation of Offensive Refuse :

Number removed	166
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Food and Fish Shops :

Number inspected	111
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Meetings of Owners and Agents :

<i>Re</i> work to be done	226
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Movable Dwellings, Caravans, etc. :

Number observed	9
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Dealt with as insanitary	4
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Removed	5
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Clerical Work :

Letters written	1252
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Notices served	139
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Statutory notices served	4
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Statutory notices complied with	2
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I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DANIEL LLEWELLYN.